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THE CASE OF THE BOOK-BINDERS of *Great Britain*.

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WE humbly Desire to inform this Honourable House, that there are several hundred Families in this City, and many more in the several Counties of this Kingdom, who get a Livelyhood by binding Books.

And whereas the Paper-Makers of *Great Britain*, have in their Printed Case, gave into this Honourable House, affirmed that Past-boards formerly were made Use of to the same Purpose that Mill-boards are now; and that by the Use of the said Mill-boards, the Consumption of great Quantities of Paper is prevented, which Assertion of theirs being utterly False; we humbly crave Leave to represent the Case truly to this Honourable House.

That for above one hundred Years past, Books have been Bound in Mill-boards; and that before the Making of Mill-boards was discovered, small Books were generally Covered only in Vellum, without Boards, and large Books Bound with Wainscot-boards.

That within twenty Years past, very great Improvements have been made in the making Mill-boards.

That the late Improvements in making Mill-boards hath been very much to the Advantage of the Paper-Makers; for, whereas formerly Mill-boards were made of the Shavings of Paper, which is Cut off of the Edges of Books in their Binding, and which generally is about a Six Part of the whole Quantity of Paper in every Book: A Way hath been found out of late to make Mill-boards of old Cables, and other Ropes, belonging to Shipping; and the Shavings of Books hath been wholly imployed in making White Paper, which hath very much increased the Materials for making Paper in *England*, and been a very great Advantage to the English Manufactory of Paper.

That the Complaint of the Paper-Makers does not really arise from any Damage the making Mill-boards does to their Business; but, because formerly some few Paper-Makers using to make Mill-boards, and in Order to raise an extravagant Profit to themselves, keeping them up at an extravagant Price, and making a less Quantity then they knew the Book-binders required; whereby several Families were reduced to great Poverty, for want of Boards to go on with their Work: In Order to prevent which Abuse (some Persons of Substance) without any other visible View, than to deliver their Brethren Book-binders from such Miserable Oppression, took a Mill, and imployed several Persons to make Mill-boards on their own Account, whereby they have reduced them to a very moderate Price, and fully supplied the Trade to the great Benefit of all Book-binders; and, which is the true Cause of the Paper-Makers Complaint.

That it is Impossible to bind Books without Mill-boards; to prohibit the Use of them, would be effectually to prohibit the Binding most Sorts of Books, and the utter Undoing many Families in all Parts of the Kingdom.

Therefore we humbly Hope, this Honourable House will not Consent to prohibit the making Mill-boards, which will be so Prejudicial to the whole Trade of Book-binders, and no Way Advantageous to the Duty intended to be laid on Paper.

THE CASE OF THE Book-binders of *Great Britain*.

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